Habakkuk, the Reflective Thinker.

THE REVISION OF HABAKKUK'S FAITH.

In doubt — or the Prophet's Problem

I. Habakkuk faced the facts of experience, which upset his theory of life.

1. He saw that Wrong ruled in place of Right.

"Why make me look upon sorrow,
And fill mine eyes with trouble?
Violence and wrong are before me,
Strife comes and quarrel arises."

2. And frankly acknowledged that his faith was baffled.

Intro — The tempting of Hab. to accept the prevailing order of things.

a- Israel thrown into confusion. The Torah paralyzed, and justice perverted.

"Therefore the Law is benumbed,
And judgment never gets forth:
For the wicked beleaguers the righteous,
So judgment comes forth perverted."

b- His own praying of no avail.

"How long, O Jehovah, have I called and Thou hearest me not?
Have I cried to Thee Wrong!
and Thou sendest no help.?"

~~3. He could see in Jehovah's deliverance but a substitution for a more cruel tyrant. Read Hab.1:12-17.~~

We, too, should face the facts of life.
The young scientist in India. I.S.237.

"The Cross-roads of Life"
at Pacific Grove — Moss Beach.

Whenever the shoe pinches we should locate the trouble.

On the Watch-tower, or, Preparation for further inquiry

II. Habakkuk took his stand for further inquiry.

"On my watch tower will I stand,
And take up my post on the rampart;
I will watch to see what He says to me,
And what answer I get back to my plea."

1. He neither gave up nor resigned to the inevitable as so many do today.

2. He suspended his judgment

3. He continued to carry his share of responsibility and fitted himself for a possible further explanation of the mystery, or contradictions, of life.

Moss beach road – I stopped to look around.

Finding the Light – or the [illegible] that unlocks the Problem.

III. The perseverence of Habakkuk rewarded.

1. The ultimate outcome of things determined by their inherent nature.

a-The tyrant, because he is a tyrant, shall perish. "Behold the wicked – his soul fainteth within him!"

"Lo, swollen, not level, is his soul
within him!"

......

"The robber is robbed by his riches;
The tyrant is dragged by his chain;
The schemer is snared by his cunning;
The slayer lies dead by his slain."
Edwin Markham.

~~Read the five woes: Hab.2:5-20.~~

b-The righteous, because he is righteous, shall live.

"But the righteous shall live by his
faithfulness."

Moss Beach cross-road – observation & reflection.

~~2. In vision Habakkuk realizes the power of Jehovah.~~

~~Read Hab.3:3-15~~

V. Habakkuk's new Faith.

1. His praying is renewed.

> "Lord, I have heard the report of Thee:
> I stand in awe!
> Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of
> the years,
> In the midst of the years make Thee
> known;
> In turmoil remember mercy!"

2. His confidence is restored.

Read Hab. 3:16-ff

See Kent's S.O.T. vol. 3 for text reading.

IV – applying the light to the impending crisis.

The Chaldeans – more wicked than the Jewish rulers – would the swifter go to their destruction.

Moss-Beach – cross roads – I rode to the Beach.